

From: Chris Vargas
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I'm writing to express my strong concern that the proposed settlement with Microsoft does not go far enough to punish Microsoft for proven monopolistic activities. Not only that, it actually includes wording that could threaten other operating systems' existences, thereby strengthening Microsoft's monopoly.

In a recent column, industry expert Robert Cringely points out that Microsoft will not have to open its APIs to non-commercial entities; that could easily be seen as allowing Microsoft to lock out Linux and FreeBSD developers from allowing access to Microsoft servers via a tool called Samba. This same tool allows my Macintosh to access Microsoft servers; it could easily be locked out if this settlement goes through.

Everyone in the computer industry knows that Microsoft takes advantage of its monopolistic position on a daily basis. We hoped that the remedies would try to reign Microsoft in. These remedies do not do so, and in fact set up the possibility of killing off one of the best non-Microsoft OSES currently available.

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